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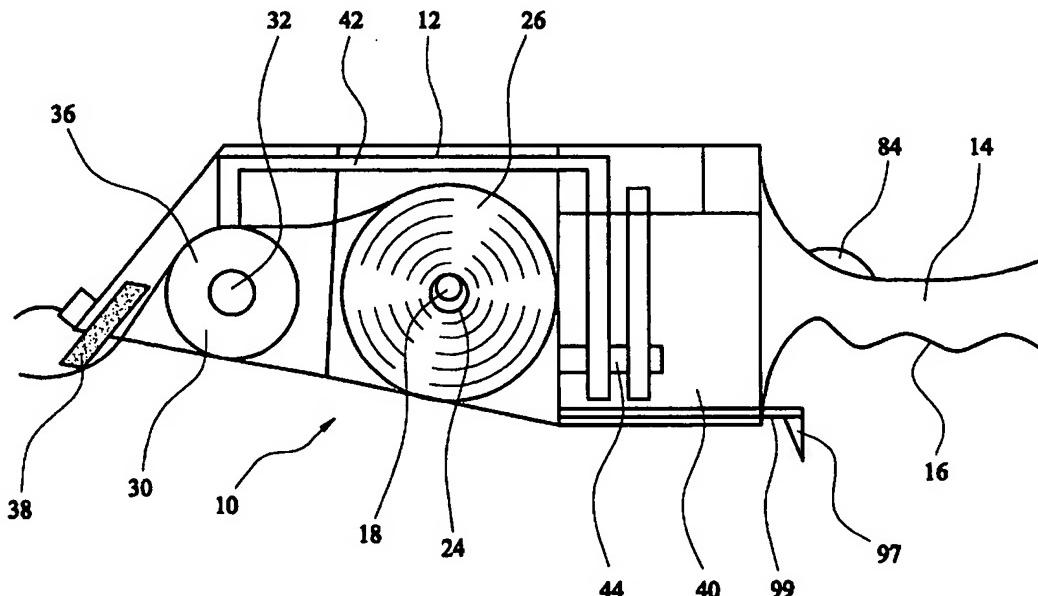
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(54) Title: WALLCOVERING APPLICATOR



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(57) Abstract: A wallcovering applicator (10) comprises a housing (12) having a handle portion (14). The wallcovering applicator (10) comprises a support axle (18) and extends through a tube (24) provided in the centre of a roll of wallpaper (26). The wallcovering applicator (10) comprises a paste appliance roller (30) having a tube (32) with apertures (34) defined along its length. In use, the tube (32) contains wallpaper paste which thereby flows out of the tube (32) and through the apertures (34) and on to the wallpaper (26). In use, the applicator (10) is moved along a wall and wallpaper is pulled from the roll of wallpaper (26) as it rotates on the support axle (18). The wallpaper presses against the paste applicator which thereby transfers paste onto the wallpaper. Finally, the wallpaper is guided and pressed on to the wall.

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For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

WALLCOVERING APPLICATOR

Field of the Invention

5 The present invention relates to wallcovering applicators and especially, but not limited to, an applicator for adhering wallpaper and borders to a wall or ceiling.

10 Background to the Invention

Wallcoverings, and in particular rolls of wallpaper, are difficult to adhere correctly and, neatly to a wall and especially to a ceiling. This partly results from the 15 wallpaperer having to handle a long strip of wallpaper having a sticky surface which tends to adhere to other articles or to a wrong location on the wall.

In particular, wallpaper is especially difficult to 20 adhere to a ceiling. This requires the wallpaperer to maintain his arms above head height over a prolonged period which can be tiring. Accordingly, two wallpaperers are generally used unless the wallpaperer is skilled.

25 It is an aim of the present invention to overcome at least one problem associated with the prior art whether referred to herein or otherwise.

Summary of the Invention

30

According to a first aspect of the present invention there is provided a wallcovering applicator for applying a wallcovering to a surface, the wallcovering applicator

comprising retaining means for retaining a roll of a wallcovering, an applicator member for providing an adhesive surface on the wallcovering and a pressing member for pressing the wallcovering against the surface wherein
5 the applicator member comprises an inner conduit which supplies a fluid to the periphery of the applicator member.

Preferably the wallcovering comprises wallpaper or a
10 border.

Preferably the roll of wallcovering is rotatable relative to the applicator.

15 Preferably, the retaining means comprises an axle. Preferably the axle is arranged, in use, to extend through a central elongate tube provided in the roll of the wallcovering. The axle may be non-rotatable relative to the applicator. The axle may be rotatable relative to the
20 applicator.

The applicator member may comprise a paste appliance member. The applicator member may comprise an elongate annular member which may encompass the inner conduit. The
25 elongate annular member may comprise a porous material. Preferably the elongate annular member comprise a sponge material. The elongate annular member may comprise a plurality of bristles.

30 The inner conduit is preferably located along the central elongate axis of the applicator member.

The inner conduit may be non-rotatable relative to the applicator. The inner conduit may be rotatable relative to the applicator.

5 The applicator member may comprise a plurality of sleeve members which may encompass the inner conduit. The applicator member may comprise an elongate annular member and may comprise a first sleeve member and may comprise a second sleeve member. The first sleeve member may
10 comprise a section of perforated resilient material and preferably comprises a section of perforated sponge. Preferably the second sleeve member comprises a section of resilient material and preferably sponge material. The applicator member preferably comprises a bung member
15 adjacent to both lateral ends. Preferably one or each bung member has an aperture for the inner conduit to pass therethrough. Preferably the bung members prevent fluid flow out of the lateral sides of the elongate annular member and may prevent fluid flow out of the lateral sides
20 of the or each sleeve member.

The pressing member preferably comprises a resilient material. The pressing member preferably extends laterally across the applicator by a distance greater than
25 the width of the wallcovering. The pressing member may comprise an elongate resilient flange which may comprise a plastics material. The pressing member may comprise an elongate brush.

30 Preferably the inner conduit has a plurality of apertures located on its periphery. Preferably the apertures are spaced apart along the elongate length of

the inner conduit. The apertures may be located radially around the periphery of the inner conduit.

Preferably the applicator member applies an adhesive 5 to a surface of the wallcovering. Preferably the applicator member applies wallpaper paste to the rear surface of the wallcovering. Accordingly, the fluid may comprise wallpaper paste.

10 The applicator may comprise a reservoir for containing the fluid. Preferably the reservoir is enclosed. The reservoir may be integral with the applicator.

15 Preferably the applicator comprises a pump for inducing the fluid to flow from the reservoir to the inner conduit. Preferably the pump comprises control means to control the flow of fluid from the reservoir to the inner conduit.

20 The applicator may comprise a handle. The handle may enable the applicator to be gripped by the or each hand of the user in order to manually operate the applicator.

25 The reservoir may be external or separate from the applicator and connected to the applicator by a fluid supply tube. The reservoir may be arranged, in use, to be worn by the user and may be located adjacent to the hip of the user or on the back of the user.

30 The applicator may comprise a valve to select between the use of a first reservoir and a second reservoir.

The pump may comprise a piston and seal member located within a tube. The pump may comprise an inlet tube having a valve member located therein and may have an outlet tube with a valve member located therein. Preferably the or 5 each valve member is a one-way valve allowing fluid flow in a single direction.

The pump may comprise a junction located between the inlet tube and the outlet tube. Preferably the piston and 10 seal member are arranged to slide up and down the tube. In use, the piston and seal member may slide up the tube to cause the fluid to flow through the inlet tube from the reservoir through the valve. The return movement of piston and seal member may cause the fluid to flow around 15 the junction and through the second valve in the outlet tube.

The applicator may comprise cutting means for cutting the wallcovering to a selected length. Preferably the 20 cutting means comprises a blade. Preferably the blade is slidably located on the applicator. Preferably the applicator comprises resilient means for urging the blade towards one lateral side of the applicator. The resilient means may comprise a spring. The blade may comprise a cut 25 out portion. The cut out portion may comprise substantially a "V" section. Preferably the blade comprises a single cutting edge. Preferably the cutting means is located on the front edge of the applicator.

30 The applicator may comprise guide means for guiding the wallcovering on to the surface. Preferably the guide means comprises a guide member and may comprise two guide members. Preferably the or each guide member co-operates

with a lateral edge of the wallcovering. Preferably the guide means is slidably mounted on the applicator. Preferably the guide means is located adjacent to the pressing means. Preferably the guide means is located on 5 the front edge of the applicator.

According to a second aspect of the present invention there is provided a method of applying a wallcovering to a surface comprising moving an applicator relative to the 10 surface and causing a surface of the wallcovering to move over an applicator member and to contact a fluid provided on the applicator member wherein the fluid is supplied to the periphery of the applicator member through an inner conduit.

15

Preferably the method comprises applying a wallcovering to a wall or ceiling.

Preferably the method comprises applying wallpaper or 20 a border to a surface.

Preferably the method comprises moving the applicator substantially parallel to the surface. Preferably the method comprises moving the applicator in the direction 25 along the surface to which the wallcovering is to be applied.

Preferably the method comprises urging or pressing the applicator towards the surface.

30

Preferably the method is a manual method of applying a wallcovering to a surface.

Brief Description of the Drawings

5

The present invention will now be described, by way of example only, and with reference to the drawings that follow, in which:

10 Figure 1 is a cross-section through a preferred embodiment of a wallcovering applicator.

Figure 2 is an underneath view of a preferred embodiment of a wallcovering applicator.

15

Figure 3 is a plan schematic view of a part of a further embodiment of a wallcovering applicator.

20 Figure 4 is a plan schematic view of a part of another embodiment of a wallcovering applicator.

Figure 5 is a cross-section through a part of the pump mechanism.

25 Figure 6 is a perspective view of a reservoir for use with a wallcovering applicator.

Figure 7a is a schematic plan view of another embodiment of a paste appliance roller.

30

Figure 7b is a side view of another embodiment of a paste appliance roller.

Figure 8 is a front view of part of a wallcovering applicator.

Description of the Preferred Embodiment

5

As shown in Figure 1 and Figure 2, a wallcovering applicator 10 comprises a housing 12 having a handle portion 14 secured thereto. The handle portion has a profiled surface providing channels 16 in order to retain 10 the fingers of the user. Such a profiled surface improves the comfort and grip of the wallcovering applicator.

The wallcovering applicator 10 comprises a support means in the form of a support axle 18 which is retained 15 by the lateral sides 20, 22 of the housing 12. The support axle 18 extends across the width of the wallcovering applicator 10 and does not need to be rotatable relative to the lateral sides 20, 22 of the housing 12. However, the support axle may be rotatable 20 relative to the lateral sides 20, 22 of the housing 12. In use, the support axle 18 extends through the tube 24 provided in the centre of the roll of wallpaper 26. The diameter of the tube 24 is larger than the diameter of the support axle 18 and, therefore, the roll of wallpaper 26 25 is able to rotate relative to the support axle 18 and the housing 12.

The wallcovering applicator 10 comprises a paste appliance means in the form of an applicator member or a 30 paste appliance roller 30. If the wallcovering is self-adhesive then the applicator member may provide an adhesive surface by damping the rear surface of the wallcovering with a suitable fluid, for example water.

However, for conventional wallcoverings the applicator member comprise a paste appliance roller 30. The paste appliance roller 30 comprises an axle which supports the roller to the lateral sides 20, 22 of the housing 12. The 5 axle of the paste appliance roller 30 is able to rotate relative to the housing 12. Alternatively, the axle of the paste appliance roller 30 may not be able to rotate relative to the housing.

10 The paste appliance roller comprises an inner conduit in the form of a central elongate tube 32 which extends along the longitudinal length of the paste appliance roller 30. The tube 32 comprises a number of apertures 34 or openings defined along its length. In use, the tube 32 15 contains wallpaper paste which thereby flows out of the tube 32 through the apertures 34.

The paste appliance roller 30 comprises a porous elongate annular section 36 which encompasses the tube 32 20 and extends radially outwardly therefrom. The elongate annular section 36 may comprise a section of a sponge material or the like. The elongate annular section 36 may comprise a porous material and may comprise a brush section comprising a plurality of radially extending 25 bristles. Accordingly, the purpose of the elongate annular section 36 is to distribute wallpaper paste from the tube 32 to an exposed region whereby the wallpaper paste is applied to the wallpaper.

30 The tube 32 may not be able to rotate relative to the housing and the elongate annular section 36 may rotate around the tube 32. Alternatively, the tube 32 may rotate

relative to the housing and may rotate with the elongate annular section 36.

The wallcovering applicator 10 has pressing means 5 secured adjacent to the longitudinal end of the housing 12. The pressing means may comprise a roller or an elongate brush 38. The pressing means urges or presses the wallpaper or border on to the wall or ceiling in order to aid adhesion.

10

In use, the roll of wallpaper 26 is located on the support axle 18. In order to do this the axle is removed from the housing 12 and is inserted through the tube 24 provided in the roll of wallpaper. The support axle 18 15 may be telescopic or may be otherwise supported and removed from the housing 12. The support axle 18 and hence the roll of wallpaper 26 is then retained in the housing 12. The leading edge of the wallpaper is then pulled over the paste applicator roller 30 and below the 20 elongate brush 38. The leading edge of the wallpaper will thereby have some wallpaper paste on its rear surface. However, more paste may be manually applied if required.

Once the leading section of the wallpaper has adhered 25 to the wall the wallcovering applicator 10 is moved in the direction along the wall where the wallpaper is to be adhered. During this movement the brush 38 is urged towards the wall in order to press the wallpaper against the wall in order to improve the bond between the 30 wallpaper and the wall. Accordingly, the brush 38 extends across the full width of the wallpaper.

As the applicator 10 is moved along the wall, wallpaper is pulled from the roll of wallpaper 26 as it rotates on the support axle 18. The wallpaper presses against the paste applicator which thereby transfers paste onto the wallpaper. Finally, the wallpaper is guided and pressed onto the wall.

The paste appliance roller 30 is supplied with wallpaper paste by a reservoir 40. The paste is able to flow through a connecting tube 42 from the reservoir 40 to the central tube 32 located in the paste appliance roller 30. A pump 44 induces the flow and comprises control means whereby the flow of the wallpaper paste can be controlled and adjusted. The reservoir and associated tubes are, thereby, self-contained. This results in the wallcovering applicator 10 being suitable for use in any orientation, for example inverted for adhering wallpaper to a ceiling. If the apparatus used a rotating paste applicator partially immersed in a reservoir of wallpaper paste, this would result in the apparatus only being suitable for use in a particular orientation since wallpaper paste would flow out of the reservoir when not in the preferred orientation. This is one problem in prior art apparatus.

25

As shown in Figure 3 and Figure 4, the pump 44 comprises a motor 46 having a small gear wheel located on the end of the drive shaft 50. The small gear wheel engages with teeth provided around the circumference of a larger disk 48. A piston rod 52 is attached at one end to the disk 48 located spaced from the centre of the disk 48. The other end of the piston rod comprises a seal member 54 which is located within a tube 56. The periphery of the

seal member 54 cooperates with the inner surface of the tube 56 and creates a seal such that the wallpaper paste cannot flow around the seal member 54 in the tube. Accordingly, as the disk 48 is rotated by the motor 46 the 5 seal member 54 slides along inside the tube 56. As the seal member 54 slides further into the tube 56, the seal member 54 causes wallpaper paste to flow from the reservoir 40 up an inlet tube 58 and through a valve member 60.

10

Similarly, as the seal member 54 slides away from the disk 48 the wallpaper paste is caused to flow into an outlet tube 62 through a second valve member 64.

15

In order to cause the wallpaper paste to flow from the reservoir 40 to the paste appliance roller 30 the motor 46 is powered and causes the seal member 54 to slide within the tube 56. Wallpaper paste is caused to flow through the one way valve 60 from the reservoir and into a junction 66 in the tubes as the seal member 54 moves towards the disk 48, as shown in Figure 3, Figure 4 and Figure 5. As the seal member 54 slides further into the tube 56 the first control valve 60 is caused to close and the wallpaper paste flows through a second one-way valve 20 64 and into the outlet tube 62. As the seal member 54 continues to slide backwards and forwards within the tube 56, the wallpaper paste is caused to flow from the reservoir and towards the paste appliance roller 30 25 through the supply tube 42.

30

As shown in Figure 1, the applicator 10 comprises control means in the form of a handle mounted button 84. The control means controls the operation of the motor and

thereby controls the flow of the wallpaper paste from the reservoir to the paste appliance roller 30.

The one way valves 60, 64 may comprise a restricted flow pathway having an associated closure element 61, 65. The closure element preferably locates and closes the flow pathway in order to prevent fluid flow in one direction. In the other direction the closure element may be urged away from the restricted flow pathway in order to enable fluid to flow through the valve 60, 64. As shown in Figure 5, such a valve may comprise a bung member having an associated ball bearing. In one direction, the ball bearing locates within the flow pathway to prevent fluid flow therethrough. In the other direction the ball bearing is urged away from the bung but is retained by retaining means which may comprise a section of mesh or the like since this does not significantly inhibit fluid flow.

The applicator 10 may comprise a separate reservoir 70, as shown in Figure 6. The separate reservoir may be arranged to be retained on the hip or back of the wallpaperer. Accordingly, the separate reservoir enables significantly more wallpaper paste to be available. This, thereby, enables more wallpaper paste to be mixed at one time rather than having to re-mix the wallpaper paste to re-fill the reservoir frequently. In addition, the separate reservoir reduces the weight of the applicator and, thereby, makes the applicator easier to over prolonged periods.

The separate reservoir 70 comprises pump means (not shown) in order to pump the wallpaper paste from the

separate reservoir 70 to the applicator 10. The pump may operate similar to the pump 44 previously described. Alternatively, the pump may increase the pressure within the separate reservoir in order to cause wallpaper paste 5 to flow from the separate reservoir 70 through the outlet tube 72 and into the connecting tube 76 and eventually into the central elongate tube 32. The pump may be an electric or manual pump.

10 The separate reservoir 70 comprises an outlet tube 72 having an adaptor 74 located thereon. The adaptor 74 releasably secures the outlet tube to the connecting tube 76 provided by the applicator 10, as shown in Figure 6 and Figure 4. In addition, the separate reservoir 70 has a 15 removable cap 78 in order for the reservoir to be filled up.

20 The separate reservoir 70 comprises a filling cap 78 which enables wallpaper paste to be located in the reservoir 70. The filling cap 78 preferably comprises an outwardly located male thread which engages with a female thread located around the inner periphery of the filling aperture. Accordingly, the filling cap is simply screwed on to or away from the separate reservoir in order to 25 enable the separate reservoir 70 to be filled.

As shown in Figure 4, the applicator 10 may have a reservoir selection valve 80 which enables the wallpaper to select whether wallpaper paste is to be supplied from 30 the integral or internal reservoir 40 or the separate or external reservoir 70.

As shown in Figure 3, the connecting tube 42 may supply the wallpaper paste to one end of the central elongate tube 32. Alternatively, the connecting tube 42 may divide at a junction in order to supply wallpaper paste to both lateral ends of the central elongate tube 32, as shown in Figure 4. Such an arrangement may provide a more even distribution of wallpaper paste through the apertures 34 and the paste appliance roller 30.

10 As shown in Figure 7a and Figure 7b, the applicator member in the form of a paste appliance roller 30 may comprise a plurality of sleeve members which locate around the central elongate tube 32 in order to evenly distribute the wallpaper paste over the outer periphery of the paste 15 appliance roller 30. The paste appliance roller 30 comprises a first elongate annular member 90 which surrounds the elongate central tube 32. The elongate annular member 90 distributes wall paper paste from the holes 34 provided in the central elongate tube 32 to a 20 first sleeve member 92. The elongate annular member 90 may comprise sponge. The first sleeve member 92 locates around the elongate annular member 90 and distributes wall paper paste from the elongate annular member 90 to a second sleeve member 94. The first sleeve member 92 preferably comprises a perforated tube which may comprise 25 perforated sponge. Finally the second sleeve member 94 locates around the first sleeve member 92 and distributes wall paper paste from the first sleeve member 92 to an outer periphery of the second sleeve member 94 in order 30 for it to be applied to the wallcovering. The purpose of the first sleeve member 92 is to allow the wallpaper paste to flow evenly and to thereby distribute uniformly under

the outer peripheral surface of the second sleeve member 94.

The paste appliance roller 30 may comprise bung members 95 located at both lateral sides of the roller 30 in order to prevent wall paper paste being distributed through the lateral sides of the roller 30. One or both bung members 95 may comprise a central aperture to enable the central elongate tube 32 to project therethrough. If 10 the central elongate tube 32 is supplied from one lateral side then only one bung will require a central aperture. However, if the central elongate tube 32 is supplied from both lateral sides then both bungs will require a central aperture.

15

The applicator 10 may comprise guide means in the form of a guide member 96 which is located at the front edge of the applicator 10 adjacent to the pressing means, as shown in Figure 8. The pressing means in the form of an elongate brush 38 is located adjacent to the wall, in use. The guide member guides one lateral edge of the wallcovering and enables the wallcovering to be applied from the applicator 10 in a linear direction. In addition, prior to use a guide line may be marked on the 20 wall or ceiling which can be subsequently followed by the guide member 96 in order to apply the wallcovering correctly. Alternatively, the guide member 96 may, in use, follow the lateral edge of an adjacent section of wallcovering already applied to the wall or ceiling. The 25 guide member 96 is slidably engaged in the applicator such that the position of the guide member can be adjusted laterally on the applicator to be position correctly. The 30 applicator may comprise two guide members which may guide

both lateral edges of the wallcovering on to the wall or ceiling.

Alternatively or additionally, a guide member 97 may
5 be provided adjacent to the rear of the applicator, as shown in Figure 1. The guide member 97 enables the user to follow an indicating line on the surface (for example the wall or ceiling) in order to guide the direction that the applicator is moved. The guide member 97 is mounted
10 on a rearwardly extending arm 99.

In addition, the applicator may comprise cutting means to cut the wallcovering to a predetermined length. The cutting means is located at the front edge of the
15 applicator 10 adjacent to the pressing means. The cutting means comprises a blade 98 which is slidably mounted on the applicator adjacent to the pressing means. Once the wallcovering has been adhered to the wall or ceiling to the correct length the cutting means can be used to cut
20 the wallcovering. The blade 98 is slidably engaged to the applicator 10 and is connected to resilient means in the form of a spring 100 which urges the blade towards one lateral side of the applicator 10. The blade 98 may comprise a cut out portion substantially forming a "V"
25 leading edge in order to guide the wallcovering into the blade 98 and to improve the cutting action of the blade 98. In order to cut the wallcovering the blade 98 is manually moved laterally across the applicator 10 in order to cut the wallcovering. Once cut, the blade 98 will
30 return to the initial lateral edge of the applicator 10 as a result of the action of the resilient means. Accordingly, the blade 98 may only have a single cutting edge for cutting in one direction.

After use, the applicator 10 is cleaned by flushing water through the system. Accordingly, the water will clean the or each reservoir, the pump and associated tubes 5 and the paste appliance roller 30 including the central elongate tube 32 and the elongate annular section 36. The applicator 10 may simply be connected to a tube having a water supply direct from a tap.

10 The reader's attention is directed to all papers and documents which are filed concurrently with or previous to this specification in connection with this application and which are open to public inspection with this specification, and the contents of all such papers and 15 documents are incorporated herein by reference.

All of the features disclosed in this specification (including any accompanying claims, abstract and drawings), and/or all of the steps of any method or 20 process so disclosed, may be combined in any combination, except combinations where at least some of such features and/or steps are mutually exclusive.

Each feature disclosed in this specification 25 (including any accompanying claims, abstract and drawings), may be replaced by alternative features serving the same, equivalent or similar purpose, unless expressly stated otherwise. Thus, unless expressly stated otherwise, each feature disclosed is one example only of a generic 30 series of equivalent or similar features.

The invention is not restricted to the details of the foregoing embodiment(s). The invention extend to any novel

one, or any novel combination, of the features disclosed
in this specification (including any accompanying claims,
abstract and drawings), or to any novel one, or any novel
combination, of the steps of any method or process so
5 disclosed.

Claims

1. A wallcovering applicator for applying a wallcovering to a surface, the wallcovering applicator comprising retaining means for retaining a roll of a wallcovering, an applicator member for providing an adhesive surface on the wallcovering and a pressing member for pressing the wallcovering against the surface wherein the applicator member comprises an inner conduit which supplies a fluid to the periphery of the applicator member.
5
2. A wallcovering applicator according to claim 1 in which the roll of wallcovering is rotatable relative to the applicator.
10
3. A wallcovering applicator according to claim 1 or claim 2 in which the applicator member comprises a paste applicator member.
15
4. A wallcovering applicator according to any preceding claim in which the applicator member comprises an elongate annular member which encompasses the inner conduit.
20
5. A wallcovering applicator according to claim 4 in which the elongate annular member comprises a porous material.
25
- 30 6. A wallcovering applicator according to claim 5 in which the elongate annular member comprises a sponge material.

7. A wallcovering applicator according to claim 4 in which the elongate annular member comprises a plurality of bristles.
- 5 8. A wallcovering applicator according to any preceding claim in which the inner conduit is located along the central elongate axis of the applicator member.
- 10 9. A wallcovering applicator according to any preceding claim in which the pressing member comprises a resilient material.
- 15 10. A wallcovering applicator according to any preceding claim in which the pressing member extends laterally across the applicator by a distance greater than the width of the wallcovering.
- 20 11. A wallcovering applicator according to any preceding claim in which the inner conduit has a plurality of apertures located on its periphery.
- 25 12. A wallcovering applicator according to claim 11 in which the apertures are spaced apart along the elongate length of the inner conduit.
- 30 13. A wallcovering applicator according to claim 11 or claim 12 in which the apertures are located radially around the periphery of the inner conduit.
14. A wallcovering applicator according to any preceding claim in which the applicator member

applies an adhesive to a surface of the wallcovering.

15. A wallcovering applicator according to any preceding claim in which the applicator comprises a reservoir for containing the fluid.

16. A wallcovering applicator according to claim 15 in which the reservoir is enclosed.

10

17. A wallcovering applicator according to claim 15 or claim 16 in which the applicator comprises a pump for inducing the fluid flow from the reservoir to the inner conduit.

15

18. A wallcovering applicator according to any one of claims 15 to 17 in which the reservoir may be external or separate from the applicator and connected to the applicator by a fluid supply tube.

20

19. A wallcovering applicator according to any one of claims 15 to 18 in which the applicator comprises a valve to select between the use of a first reservoir and a second reservoir.

25

20. A wallcovering applicator according to any preceding claim in which the applicator comprises a handle.

30

21. A wallcovering applicator according to claim 18 in which the handle enables the applicator to be gripped by the or each hand of the user in order to manually operate the applicator.

22. A wallcovering applicator according to any preceding claim in which the applicator comprises cutting means for cutting the wallcovering to a
5 select length.
23. A wallcovering applicator according to claim 22 in which the cutting means comprises a blade.
- 10 24. A wallcovering applicator according to claim 23 in which the blade is slidably located on the applicator.
- 15 25. A wallcovering applicator according to any preceding claim in which the applicator comprises guide means for guiding the wallcovering on to the surface.
- 20 26. A method of applying a wallcovering to a surface comprising moving an applicator relative to the surface and causing a surface of the wallcovering to move over an applicator member and to contact a fluid provided on the applicator member wherein the fluid is supplied to the periphery of the applicator member through an inner conduit.
25
- 30 27. A method according to claim 26 in which the method comprises applying a wallcovering to a wall or ceiling.
28. A method according to claim 26 or claim 27 in which the method comprises moving the applicator substantially parallel to the surface.

29. A method according to any one of claims 26 to 28 in which the method comprises moving the applicator in a direction along the surface to which the wallcovering is to be applied.
5
 30. A method according to any one of claims 26 to 29 in which the method comprises urging or pressing the applicator towards the surface.
- 10
31. A wallcovering applicator substantially as herein described with reference to, and as shown in any of the accompanying drawings.
 - 15 32. A method of applying a wallcovering to a surface substantially as herein described with reference to, and as shown in any of the accompanying drawings.

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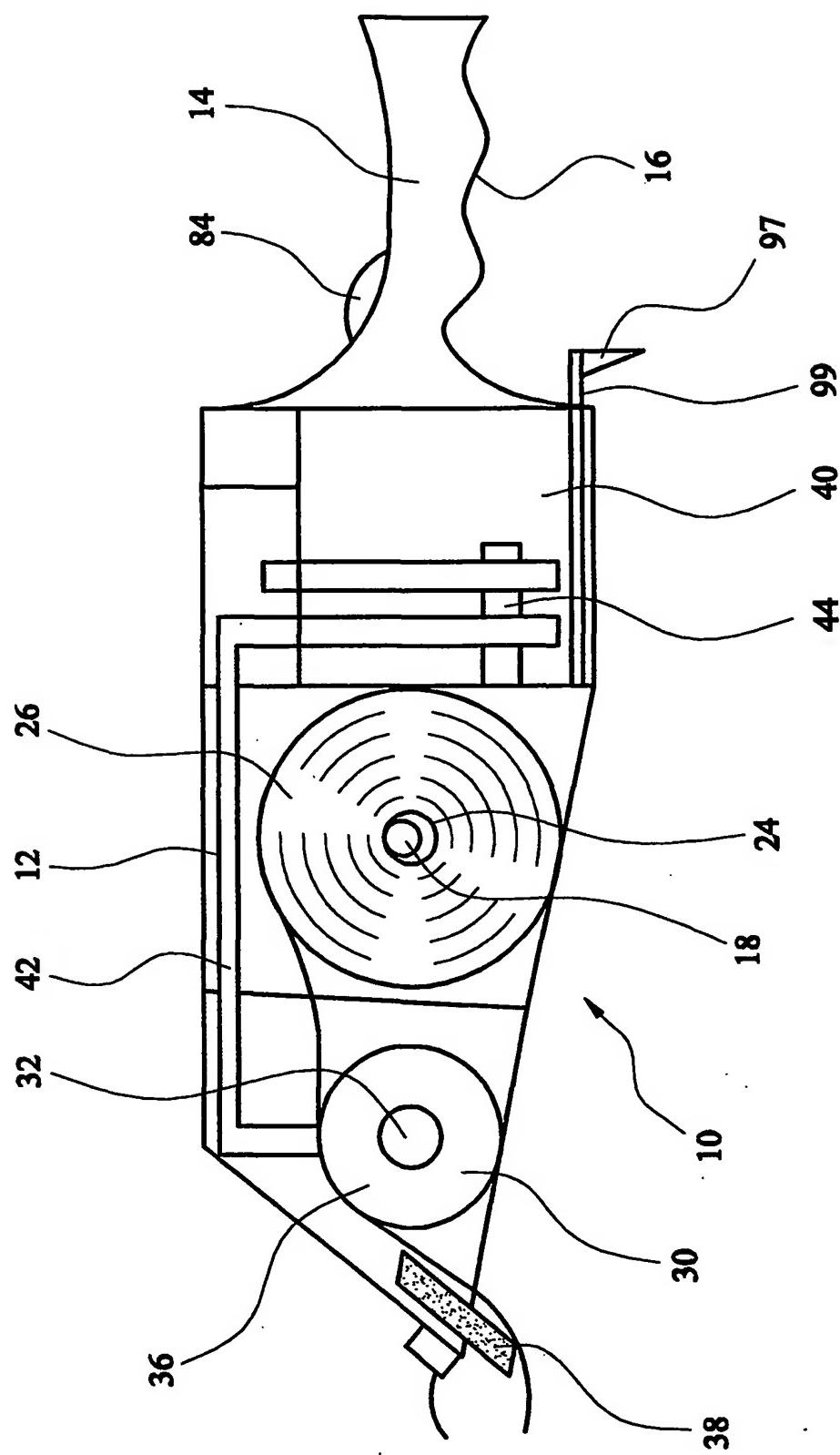


FIG. 1

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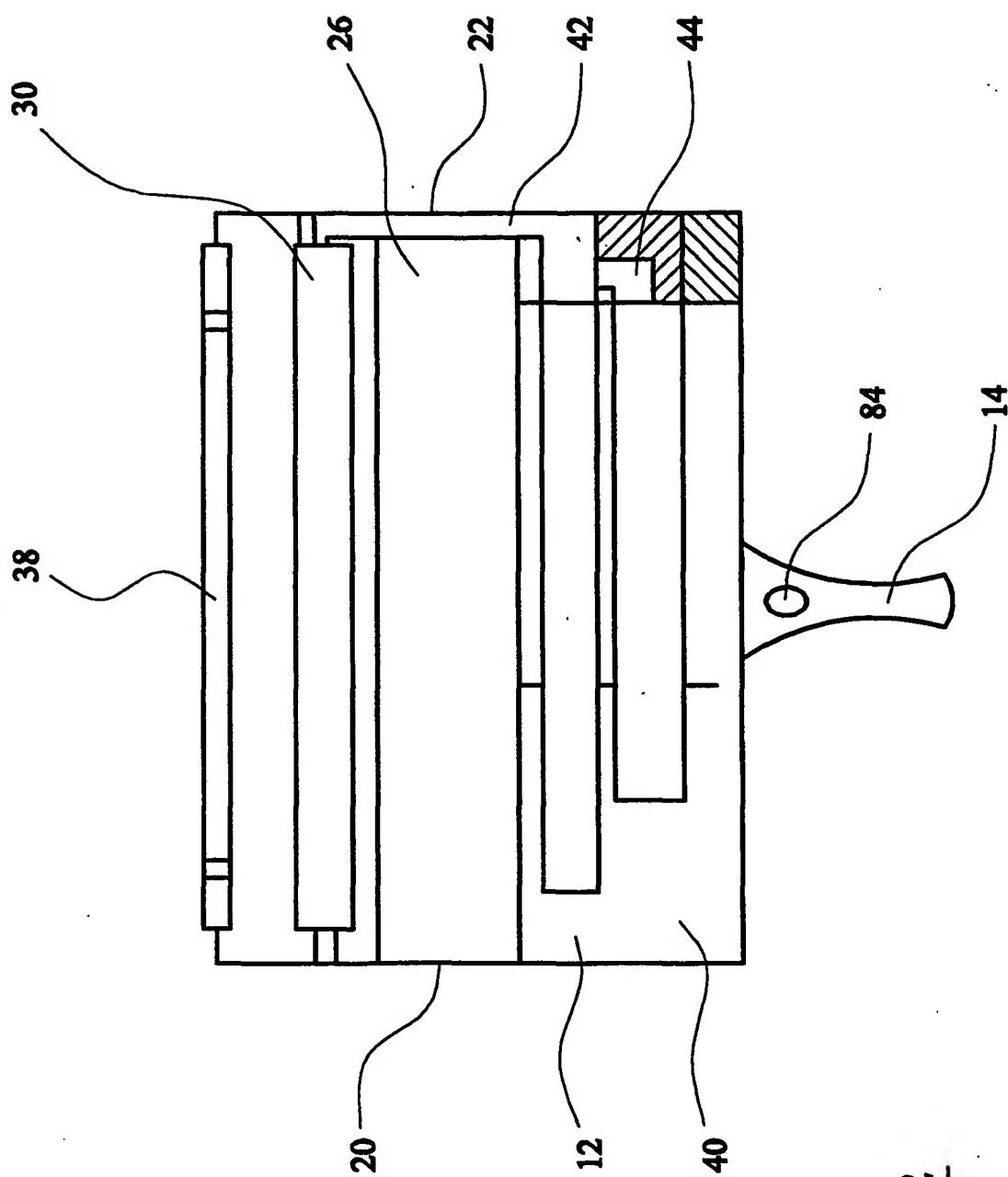


FIG. 2

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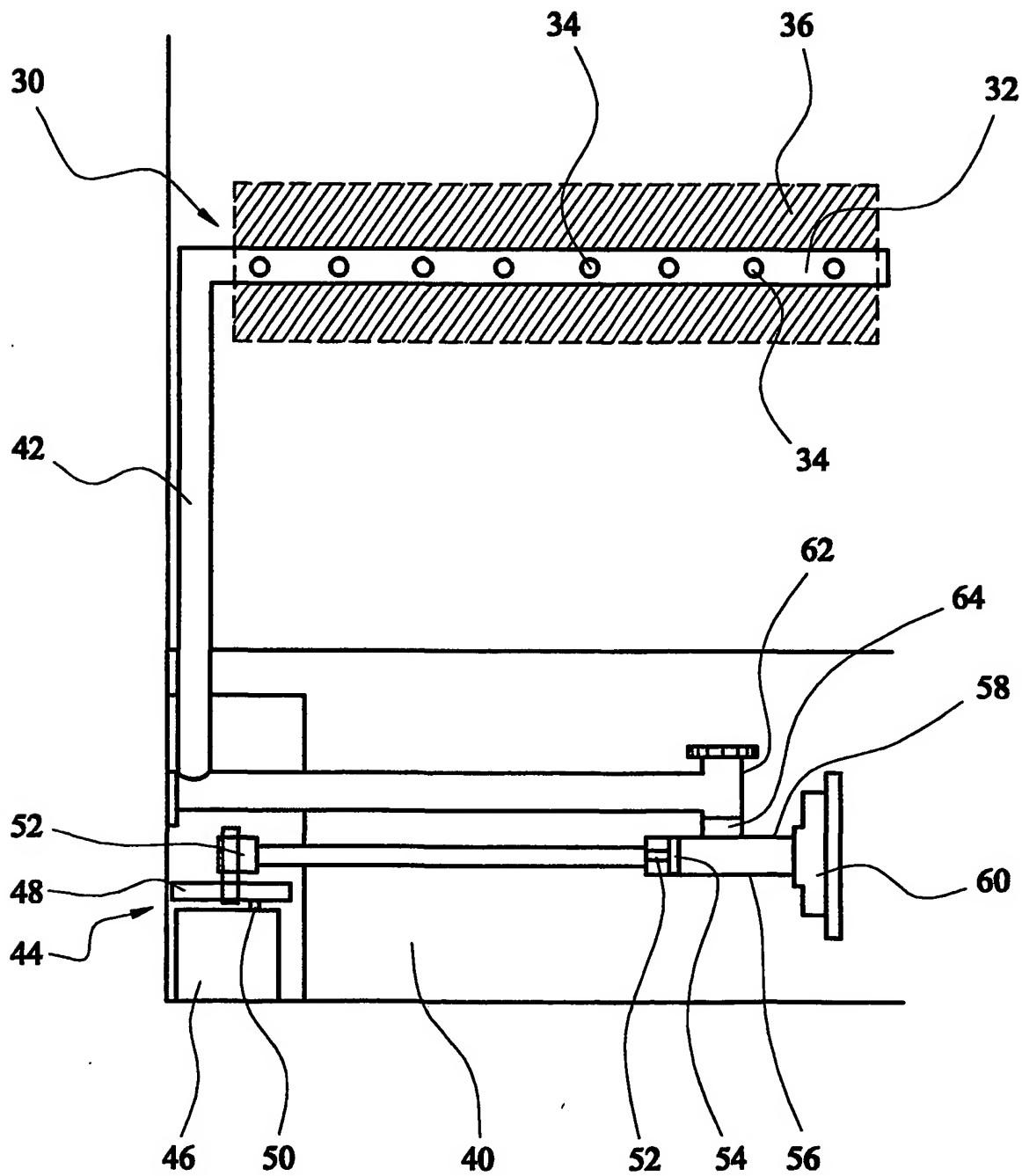


FIG. 3

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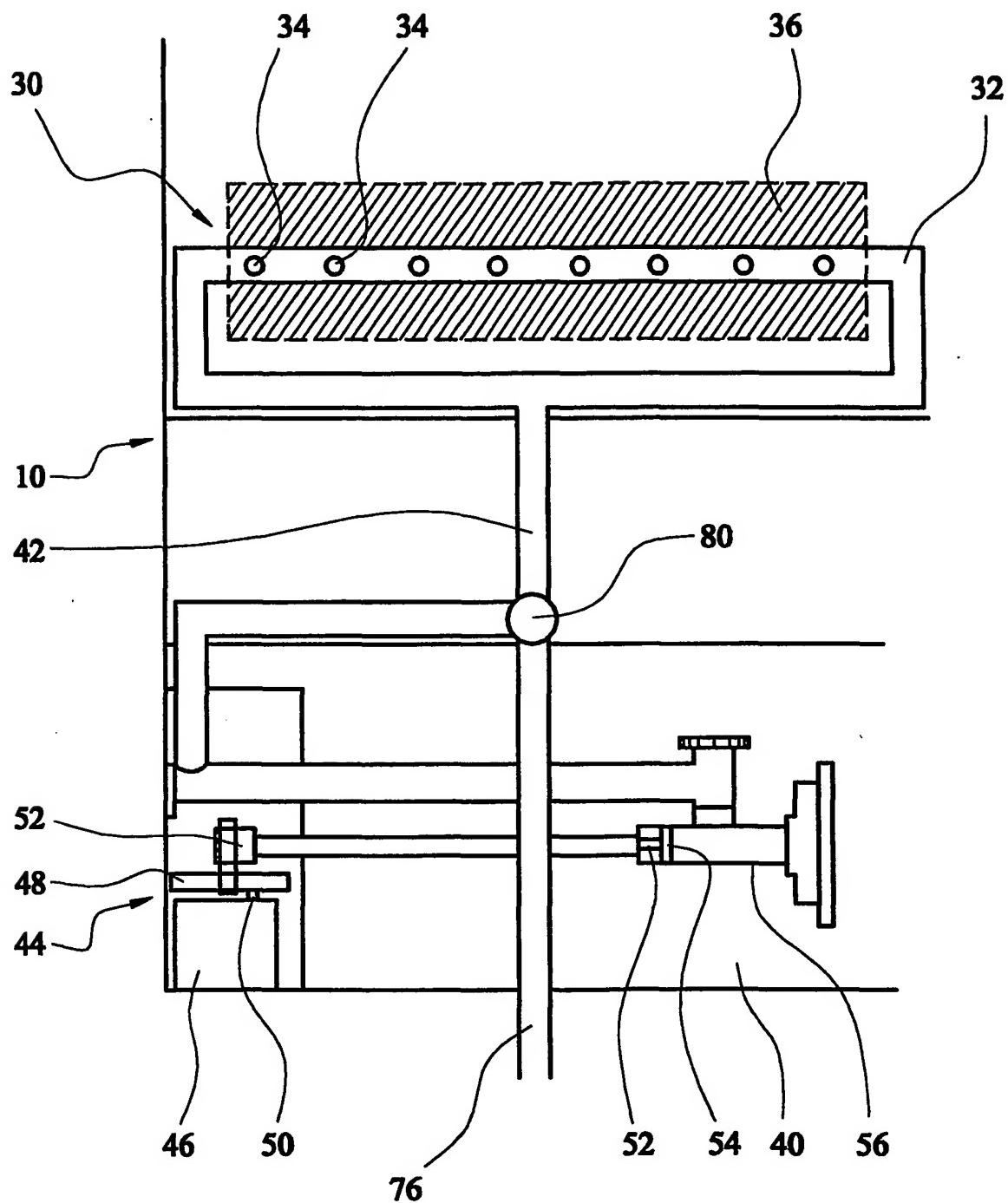


FIG. 4

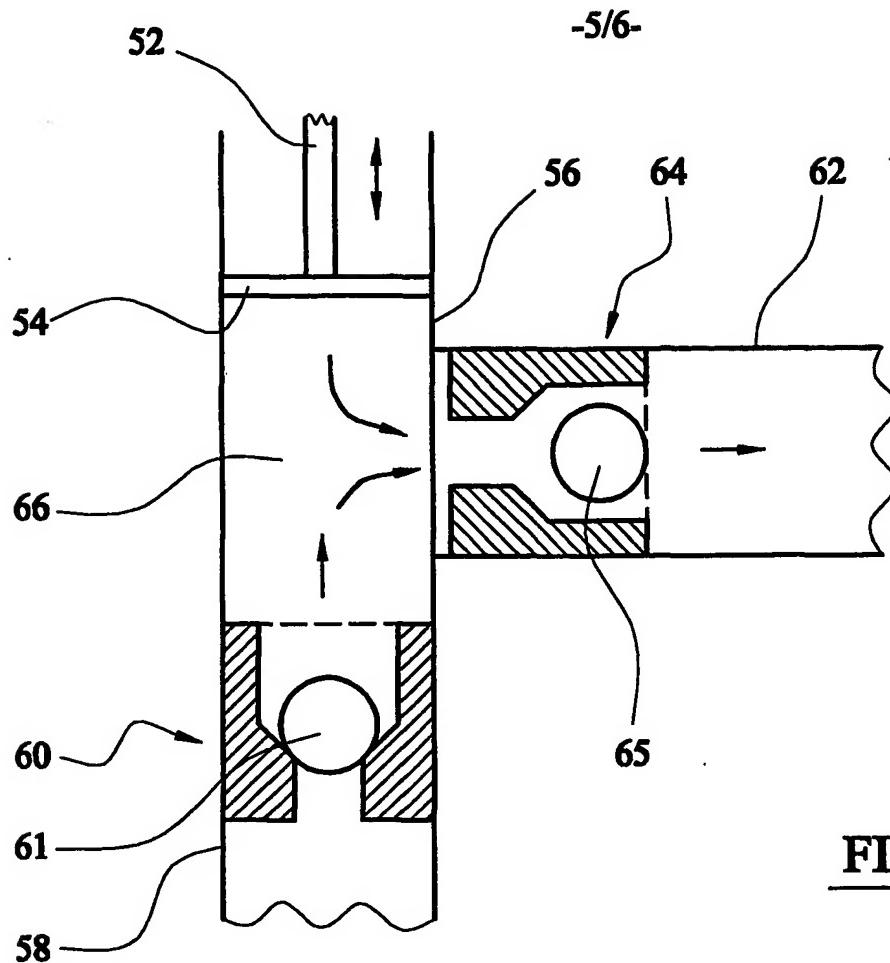


FIG. 5

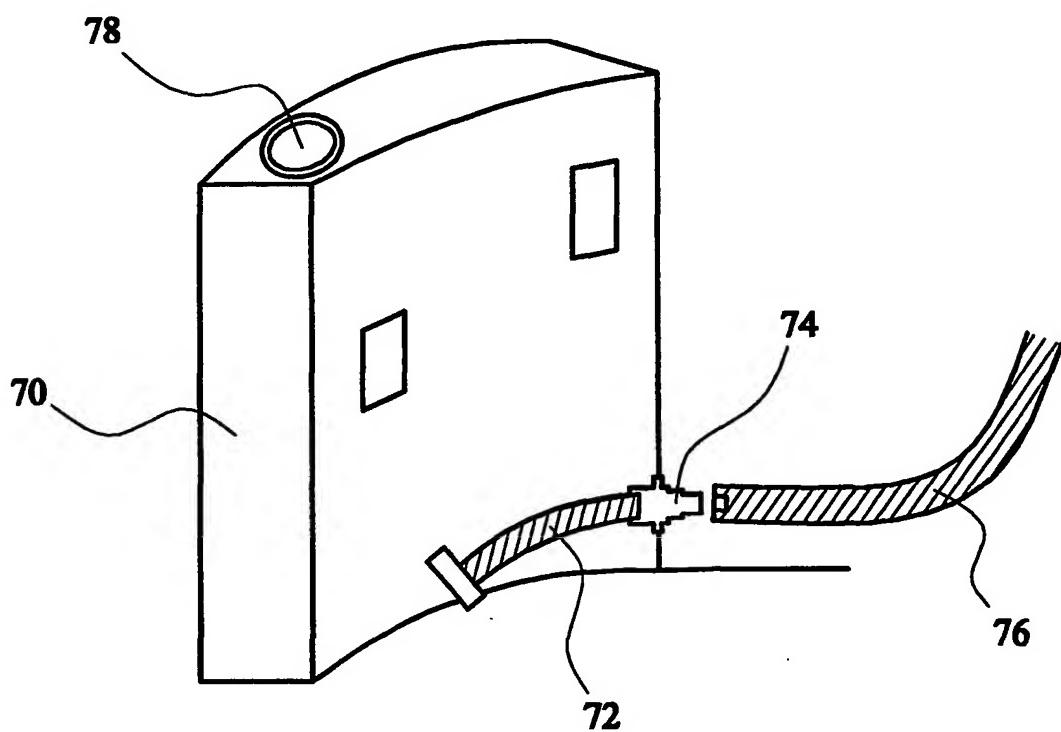
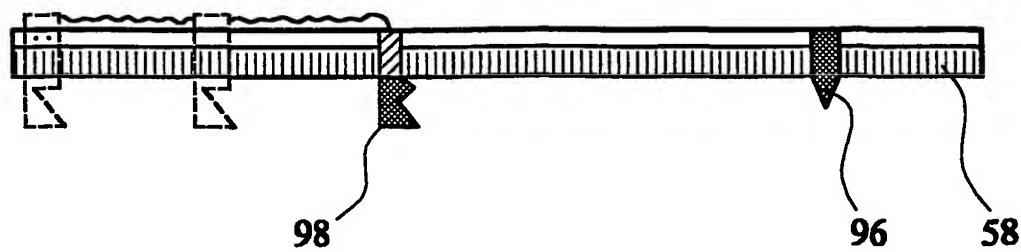
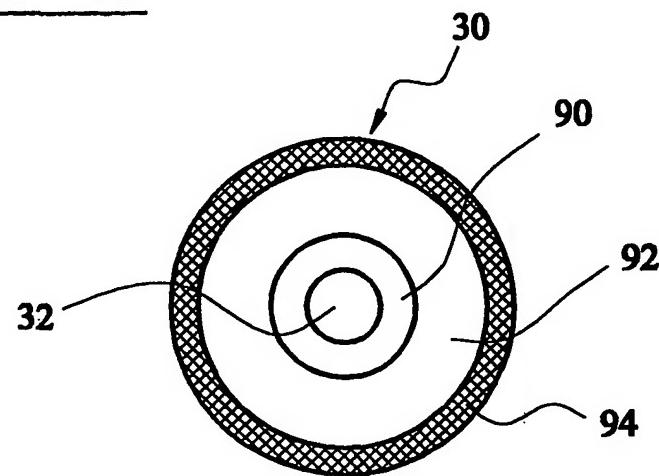
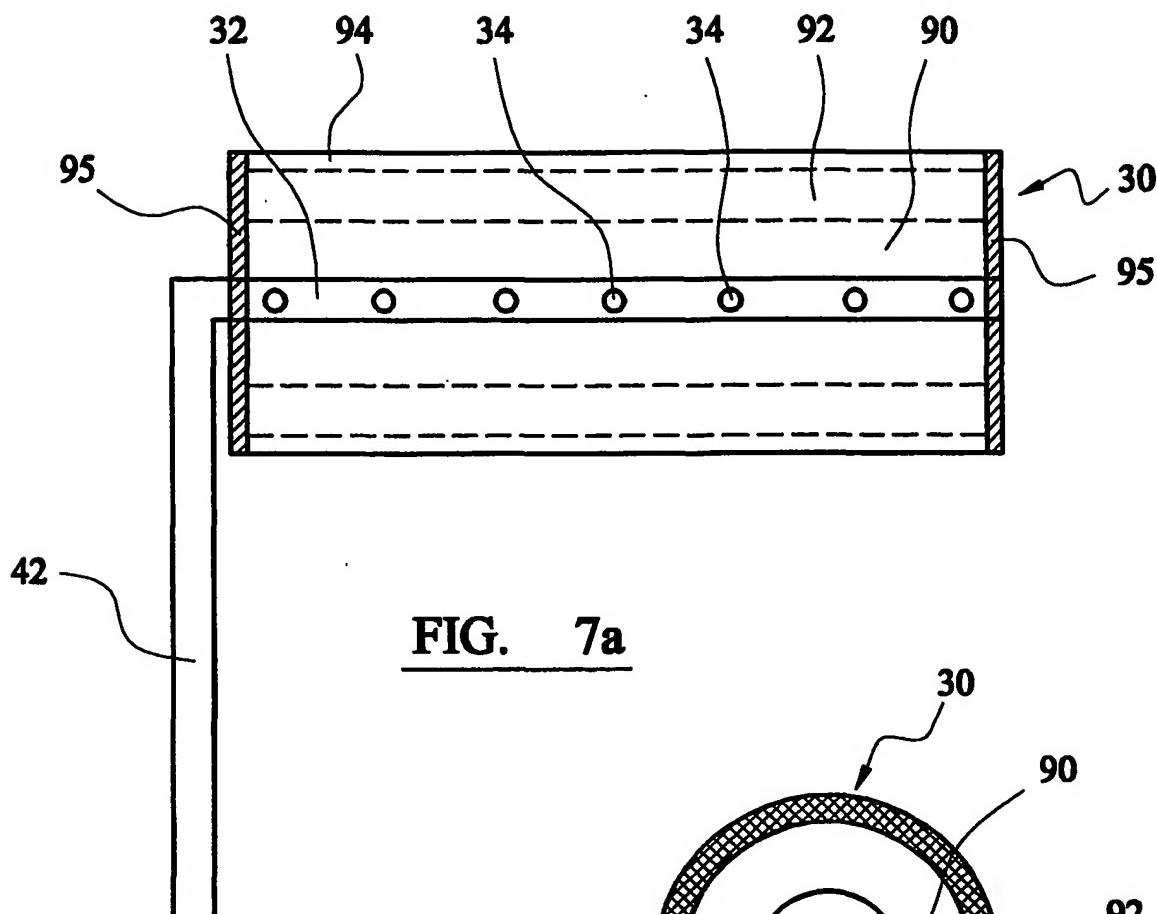


FIG. 6

-6/6-



A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 B44C7/04 B44C7/06

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 7 B44C

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

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C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	DE 40 06 079 A (M REINHARD) 25 October 1990 (1990-10-25) column 1, line 1 - line 30; figure 1 ---	1-32
X	BE 866 598 A (A HOPPE) 3 November 1978 (1978-11-03) page 1; figure 1 ---	1
A	US 4 652 331 A (R PLASENCIA) 24 March 1987 (1987-03-24) column 2, line 25 -column 3, line 55; claim 1; figures 1,2 ---	1
A	US 2 662 658 A (T R WYNN) 15 December 1953 (1953-12-15) claim 1; figures 1-7 ----	1



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Date of the actual completion of the international search

15 January 2002

Date of mailing of the international search report

24/01/2002

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Patent document cited in search report		Publication date		Patent family member(s)		Publication date
DE 4006079	A	25-10-1990	DE	4006079 A1		25-10-1990
BE 866598	A	03-11-1978	BE	866598 A1		03-11-1978
US 4652331	A	24-03-1987	NONE			
US 2662658	A	15-12-1953	NONE			

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